



**DECISION NOTICE**  
**HOBBLE CREEK PIPING PROJECT**  
**SPANISH FORK RANGER DISTRICT, UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST**  
**UTAH COUNTY, UTAH**  
**DECEMBER, 2019**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In February 2019, the Spanish Fork Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (Forest Service) received an invitation from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to participate as a cooperating agency on the Hobble Creek Piping Project. The Forest received this invitation because the proposed project crosses National Forest System lands and thus requires a decision by the Forest Service whether or not to approve the proposed action and amend the existing special use permit of issue a new permit. The Mapleton Irrigation Company (MIDC) holds Special Use Permit, Authorization ID: SPK400404 which allows for operation and maintenance of the Hobble Creek ditch and diversion. The project proposal includes replacing 2.6 miles of the open Hobble Creek Ditch with a new 24-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline.

**General Location:** Hobble Creek, which begins near Daniels Summit in Wasatch County and flows nearly 21 miles where it terminates into Utah Lake.

**Project number in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database:** 57723

Link to BOR website: <https://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/>

Link to BOR Environmental Assessment: [https://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/ea/hobble\\_creek/20190600-HobbleCreekPipingProjectDraftEA.pdf](https://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/ea/hobble_creek/20190600-HobbleCreekPipingProjectDraftEA.pdf)

## **2.0 DECISION AND RATIONALE**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and applicable Forest Service regulations, the potential environmental impacts of this project were assessed and documented in the BOR's Environmental Assessment for the Hobble Creek Piping Project (PRO-EA-19-002). The proposed action includes ground disturbance on 8.78 acres of National Forest System lands. It is my decision to approve the proposed action as described in the EA. My decision applies to National Forest System lands only under the existing special use permit and is supported by the analysis presented in the EA. The project is consistent with the *2003 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Uinta National Forest* (Forest Plan).

In addition to the design features and mitigation proposed by BOR for the project, the Forest Service also requires the following design features required for this project as part of this decision:

- All equipment will be cleaned of soil, plant materials, and seed and inspected by the USFS prior to entering the project area. Inspections must be scheduled with the USFS in advance and will take place at the equipment yard, in case rewashing is necessary
- Disturbed areas, including the staging area, will be re-vegetated with native shallow-rooted vegetation and/or reseeded with certified weed-free seed mix as approved by the USFS

- Any impacts to water resources near the project will be restored to existing condition at the conclusion of construction

### **3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL**

The EA prepared by the BOR analyzed two alternatives: the No Action and the Proposed Action.

#### No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the Forest Service would not authorize proposed activities on National Forest System lands. Therefore, the system would remain in disrepair and continue to lose water through seepage and evaporation, which means the negative impact on shareholders, the local community, and the local economy would continue.

#### Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would involve replacing 2.6 miles, or about 13,750 feet of the ditch system, currently a combination of existing open ditches (41 percent), corrugated polyethylene pipe or RCP (59 percent), and box culvert with a pressurized pipeline.

Specific Project activities would consist of removing the existing pipe and structures, installation of a new 24-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline, constructing a new transition and screen to allow the water to enter the proposed pipe, installation of new turnouts at existing locations, and installation of other related appurtenances (air vents, meters, etc.) as deemed necessary. The proposed pipeline alignment would primarily follow the existing ditch/pipeline alignment and allow flows of up to 15 cubic-feet-per-second (cfs). The entire pipeline would be pressurized with maximum pressures close to 30 psi. Turnouts would allow water to be delivered to an existing ditch, or, the water users could connect directly to the pressurized pipeline. A proposed concrete structure would be built to transition into the proposed pipe and allow for an electrical rotating screen to remove the debris and decrease the amount of silt entering the system. Lastly, MIDC would coordinate with Mapleton City to provide secondary water to residents through the Mapleton City secondary irrigation pond as the existing farms are developed into homes and businesses.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to meet the need for additional water demand due to residential development. The Proposed Action fulfills the need for action by minimizing water loss through seepage and evaporation by nearly 1,685 acre-feet of water annually. Additionally, the Proposed Action will reduce the impacts of periodic drought, annual maintenance costs, and safety concerns associated with the open ditch system.

### **4.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The Bureau of Reclamation held a public meeting on July 11, 2019 in Mapleton, Utah to discuss the Draft EA. Approximately 15 individuals attended the meeting. A 30-day scoping and comment period began June 25, 2019 and ended July 25, 2019. Original comments received on the Draft EA are in Appendix A of the Final EA. Responses to those comments are included in Appendix A of the Final EA.

The Forest Service listed the proposed action in its Schedule of Proposed Actions beginning in November 2019. The following link to the Forest Service website includes information about the project:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57223>



## **5.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Forest Service concurs with the BOR's Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

## **6.0 FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

My decision is consistent with the following key laws, regulations, and requirements:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- National Forest Management Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Endangered Species Act of 1973
- Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species
- Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds

## **7.0 PRE-DECISIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

During the scoping and comment period, no comments were received regarding actions proposed on National Forest System lands. Based on this information, the forest determined that no parties had standing to object and therefore, there was no objection period on the project.

## **8.0 EXPECTED IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

Implementation on National Forest System lands may occur immediately after the decision is signed.

## **9.0 CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

For additional information about this project contact:

Preston Feltrop  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Provo Area Office  
Water, Environmental, and Lands Division  
302 East 1860 South  
Provo, UT 84606-7317  
Phone: (801)379-1064  
Fax: (801)379-1159

## **10.0 RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL**

The Forest Supervisor of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest is the official responsible for approving the type and extent of management activities for the Hobble Creek Piping project.

Approved by:

**DAVID WHITTEKIEND  
FOREST SUPERVISOR  
UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST**

*December 4, 2019*

**Date**

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